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HOUSE MEMORIAL 43

**48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2008**

INTRODUCED BY

Paul C. Bandy

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING CONGRESS TO APPROVE THE NAVAJO WATER RIGHTS  
SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATED BY NEW MEXICO AND THE NAVAJO NATION.

WHEREAS, resolution of the Navajo water rights claims is  
to the advantage of the state of New Mexico, the Navajo Nation  
and the United States; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico interstate stream commission and  
the Navajo Nation negotiated a proposed settlement, which has  
been submitted to congress; and

WHEREAS, the proposed settlement calls for increased  
diversions to Navajo lands near Shiprock; and

WHEREAS, the priority date of these diversions, 1858, is  
significantly older than non-Navajo rights; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico is subject to frequent drought,  
creating water shortages that would be borne by non-Navajos;

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1 and

2 WHEREAS, Navajo lake has extensive storage capacity that  
3 could be used to offset these shortages;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that congress be  
6 requested to approve the proposed Navajo water rights  
7 settlement as negotiated by New Mexico and the Navajo Nation;  
8 and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, as part of the settlement,  
10 congress be requested to support provisions for storage of  
11 thirty thousand acre-feet of water in Navajo lake to be used by  
12 non-Navajo irrigators in times of severe drought and water  
13 shortages; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
15 transmitted to the New Mexico congressional delegation, the  
16 Navajo Nation and the governor.

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